

# COLLEGE NIGHT EDITION

# The Alabamian

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## GOLD SIDE’S “ROBIN HOOD” HITS THE MARK

By RYANN TAYLOR



Robin leads the cast in a rebellious romp during “Get Away with the Crown.”

Photo courtesy of Erica Proctor

Gold Side transports their audience to a nostalgic retelling of “Robin Hood” with a twist. The three Merry Men introduce us to the current state of affairs in Nottingham, or as everyone calls it, “the ‘Ham.” The people of the ‘Ham are ridden with poverty and corruption from the Sheriff and Prince John. They dream of the return of their hero, Robin Hood, and during the opening number are pleasantly surprised by his return as well as the prospect of a party in Robin’s honor at Little John’s tavern.

Maiden Marian narrowly misses Robin’s return and with her ladies-in-waiting laments her love for a “sleaze” like Robin in “I’ve Got It Bad.”

We change scenes to Prince John’s throne room, where the Prince is lamenting his lack of popularity with the townspeople. The ridiculous gullibility of the Prince is showcased when the Sheriff is able to convince him that a money bag he dropped was from gambling with the towns-

people when in actuality, he was pocketing tax money. The Sheriff takes further steps to increase his income by convincing the Prince his lack of popularity is because he isn’t tough enough and should actually increase the taxes, resulting in a classic Gold Side boys’ number consisting of an intricate dance called “Tough Love.”

Following this, Maid Marian and her ladies come to speak to Prince John, but are locked in the castle by the Sheriff to keep them from telling Robin of the planned tax increase. However, Marian’s ladies-in-waiting have a plan to dress her as a man in “Gotta Find That Man,” and Marian is able to escape by disguising herself as a man to warn Robin at the party in Little John’s tavern.

Meanwhile at the tavern, the people of the ‘Ham are drinking in celebration of Robin’s return while Robin basks in the lime-light of his adoring fans in “He’s Robin.” When Marian arrives she unveils herself to Robin while he’s in the embrace of four local

women, assessing their “needs and how best to fulfill them.” Robin’s sleaziness does not deter Marian from doing what is right for the town and revealing the impending tax increase to the town hero. Robin takes initiative and encourages the townspeople to help him take Prince John’s crown in a rock number called “Get Away with the Crown.”

After the party, Robin and Maid Marian have a romantic discussion about their future underneath the moonlight of Sherwood Forest. Marian confesses her love and her desire to marry Robin and spend their lives together helping the poor while Robin confesses how much he loves her love of him. They perform “Loving Robin,” and before they part Marian tells Robin to meet her at the church the following morning. However, when Marian arrives at the church the next day Friar Tuck informs her that Robin left earlier with another woman. This leaves Marian in a state of confusion as to whether Robin is right for her,

but puts her in the perfect position to save the ‘Ham when Prince John comes for confession.

Friar Tuck leaves Marian alone in the church to get food for his “munchies” when the royal trumpets announce the Prince’s arrival. Marian deftly hides in the confessional to avoid the discovery that she escaped the castle, but when she makes a move to leave, Prince John hears the disturbance thinking that the Friar fell asleep in the confessional. Marian once again disguises herself as a man, but this time in voice to pass as the Friar while the Prince unloads the truth of the tax increase in “Confessions.” After Prince John leaves, Marian rushes to tell Robin the truth to save the manipulated Prince and the town of Nottingham.

Marian arrives in the town square before the proclamation and informs Robin of how they were wrong about the Prince all along, but Robin is not satisfied. He tells Marian to allow his coup to go forward, and Marian leaves

in frustration while the townspeople prepare for the “Royal Proclamation,” an unprecedented, fun rap song where the goofy Prince mistakenly tells the townspeople he knows what they want—a tax increase. Robin interrupts the announcement as the Sheriff berates the townspeople for being unwilling to pay, “like what/ what/ eighty cents.”

Robin Hood and the Merry Men restrain the Sheriff and the Prince while Robin floats the idea of him taking the crown. Marian takes a stand to right the situation, exposing the Sheriff as a crook and Robin as selfish. Marian’s valiant actions lead the Prince to appoint her as the new Sheriff. The ‘Ham leaves us optimistic for their future in “Welcome to the ‘Ham” with Maid Marian and Prince John at the helm.



Maid Marian and the Ladies in Waiting sing of Marian’s feelings for Robin Hood.

Photo courtesy of Marlee Webb



The Sheriff convinces Prince John to raise the taxes for the good of the people.

Photo courtesy of Marlee Webb



# Stop and look and listen: an Old Gold’s Story

By PATRICK EVANS

I moved home to Birmingham after 27 years away in the summer of 2015 to become Chair of the Department of Music at UAB. I previously was a professor in the Yale Institute of Sacred Music (8 years) and at the University of Delaware (10 years).

The training I received in the UM Department of Music - voice, piano, music theory, opera, music theatre, choral and solo recital performance, conducting, orchestration - all of these things I learned from dedicated, amazing professors who somehow brought their great gifts to this small Alabama town and prepared me for graduate school and my professional life.

College Night, however, provided me and all of us who played, no matter which side, the opportunity to soar or sink under the weight of our own mastery or slapdashery of those skills. I’m grateful for the times we soared, but equally grateful for the crash landings because I’m pretty sure we learned more from the things that didn’t quite work as

we’d imagined than we did from our more brilliant moments, as cherished and burnished as those memories are.

The lessons and skills I learned playing College Night have served me well throughout my professional and personal life - working together as a team for something you’re passionate about to create something together that none of you could have imagined on your own. After graduation, whether I was conducting a major choral work with an orchestra, or hanging lights and pulling together a set for an opera production on a shoestring budget, or leading chants in protest marches, or understanding how people who are very different from each other can become lifelong friends--the co-curricular lessons of College Night aren’t credits we registered for, but lifelong learning, nonetheless.

After I graduated, I had the great thrill to work with Barbara Sloan and Eric Olson, Purple Leaders ’72, and Scott Brunner, Gold Leader ’86, and a cast and

crew of over 30 to present “What’s it Gonna Be?” a College Night revue marking the first 70 years of our little tradition. We went through the archives and took parts of scripts and songs from 1919-1989 (updated 2003), to tell the stories of those who came before us. We were even able to have alumni come back to give cameo performances from their favorite shows, including a woman from the ‘50s who played a riverboat captain. She still had the beaded necklace that was central to her character’s costume and her main song.

That was a summer of incredibly hard, but rewarding work. We got to do what every UM alumni dreams about - playing College Night again as grownups. Except that we all play College Night every day as grownups, every time we dream, create, cooperate, work hard, play harder, soar, or sink, we should ‘stop and look and listen’ to all we learned ‘in the town of Montevallo.’



Evans’ knowledge from the university music department assisted him throughout his College Night career. He’s pictured here with female Gold Side leader Donna Davis from College Night 1987.

# On The Bricks

WITH KESHIA McCLANTOC

This year’s College Night theme is “Home is Where the Bricks Are.” How has College Night, and your side specifically, made Montevallo more of a home for you?



**Victoria Wolfe**  
**Gold Sophomore Elementary Education Major**

For me, College Night has always given me a connection with people on campus. No matter what our side is I know that if I am meeting someone for the first time and am unsure of how or what to about, I know that we always have College Night. I’ve also realized that on Gold Side even if you don’t know the person very well, they will always have a welcome smile for you, even if you are unable to play due to other life conflicts.



**Illyssa Overton**  
**Purple Senior Mathematics Major**

I consider a home to be somewhere you feel safe to express your true self without judgment, and that’s exactly what my Purple Side is to me. Every single Purple I meet is so accepting and caring. There is no pressure to change the way I look, dress or act. Being around Purples is the same feeling you get when you come home from a long day and take off your bra and uncomfortable jeans, clean off your face and stretch out on the couch. I wouldn’t trade it for the world.



**BJ Edwards**  
**Green (Palmer Staff) Senior Mass Communications Major**

Honestly the feeling of working on something as big as College Night has made me feel like I’m truly a part of the history of the school. Beyond that it makes me incredibly happy to help both sides see all of their hard work pay out and to make a way for them to present their vision to peers, family and friends alike.



**Mary Parker**  
**Gold Senior Business Major**

I went Gold because I like the traditional and polished vibe gold gives off. Seeing each side circle up after each College Night event has made me realize how unique Montevallo is and how proud I will be to graduate from this school in May.



**Dakota Patrick**  
**Purple Sophomore Technical Theatre Major**

Being a part of Purple Side has given me a family at Montevallo. Many of them have been there for me whenever I need help with anything! I have gained so very many lifelong friends and I have Purple Side and Montevallo to thank for that!

# Don’t Worry, Be Happy: a Vintage Purple’s Story

By JAMES “HAPPY” SMITH AND JASMYN RAY

Purple: I don’t know where to begin. Magic, royalty, family, life-long friends, love, sweat, tears, and—most importantly—acceptance.

Fresh from the tiny town of Maplesville, Ala., I arrived on campus in the Fall semester of 1983. That semester I joined the brotherhood of Alpha Tau Omega. Almost all of my brothers played for the other side, and I thought that I, too, belonged with them. Something was missing from my College Night experience. I came to realize that missing piece (and peace) was Purple. In those days, “defecting” to the other side was very socially risky, but I thought of it as going home.

The Purple Side accepted me with open arms. I love UM and I love my fraternity, but I had never felt such love and inclusion until I became a Purple. College Night and the Purple Side contributed so much to who I am today—being my true self, not being ashamed of anything—unapologetically Purple.

I had the privilege of serving in the cast and Purple Cabinet. One of my favorite memories and proudest moments was bringing a real cow to the flag football game. The Side went crazy and we, including the cow, had a fabulous time.

I admit that I do have a bit of jealousy when I watch the current Purple Side. I’m jealous that my time is over because there is no equivalent to College Night after you are done playing. It is a singular and powerful experience that tests you intellectually, emotionally and creatively. College Night teaches and inspires.



Beloved Vintage Purple James “Happy” Smith’s love for the game of College Night and those who play it knows no bounds.

One of the most beautiful aspects of the Purple Side is its concept of family. I was welcomed into this family. We stood side by side as equals, no one was more important than another. Together we accomplished feats that, as individuals, we could never have achieved. The power of believing in something greater than yourself is a key to College Night success.

I am a proud alumnus and supporter. I want today’s players to know that what they do is important on so many levels. They are a link in an almost 100-year chain, and just as I was loved and supported by the Purple alumni before me, I want them to feel the pride that I have every year, win or lose. PV, love always.

“Happy always has a smile on his face and is ready to help anyone, anytime. He has a wicked sense of humor, but he also has a strong sense of resilience. He is fiercely loyal and fiercely loving. I can safely say that everyone on Purple Side adores him.”  
-Giselle Casadaban, Female Purple leader

“He was always at rehearsal with food during the late nights, he was always sitting there in the audience with a giant smile on his face during our shows, and he was always there to offer such kind words and loving advice about being a Purple when we needed it the most.”  
-Elijah McCutchen, Male Purple Leader

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# Ultimate frisbee goes to the Golds

By AUSTIN GOODWIN

There was a good turn out on the intramural fields for the Ultimate Frisbee game on Saturday, Feb. 4th. There was the same fun-loving, competitive atmosphere you would find at any other college's homecoming events as both sides stood in their brightly colored crowds and recited cheers at each other.

The game went on for 33 minutes before the Gold Side won via mercy ruling once they scored 13 points to the Purple's three. Afterwards the sides did their usu-

al circling up and singing of side songs. The Gold Side reveled in their victory, while the Purple Side rejoiced that they all had fun.

Afterward, Will Grantham, a junior and the Gold Side's Frisbee coach said "It's always fun to be out here. I want to thank everyone for coming out! I look forward to next year! GV!"

Tyon Hudson, sophomore coach of the Purples wanted to add that "the players played well! They did their usual circling up and singing of side songs. The

Gold Side reveled in their victory, while the Purple Side rejoiced that they all had fun.

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Tyon Hudson, sophomore coach of the Purples wanted to add that "the players played well! They did their best, and the Gold's did amazing too! PV! I look forward to playing again next year!"



Gold side has won ultimate frisbee since it has been introduced as a College Night sport. Katie Compton | The Alabamian

# Purples bounce back for women's basketball

By LILY DICKINSON



With a strong defense, Purple side was able to secure a 49-21 win. Katie Compton | The Alabamian

On Feb. 7, the Gold Side and Purple Side women's basketball teams played each other in an exciting game. With a final score of 49-21, Purple Side was able to firmly secure a PV for their side.

The game started off strong for Purple, as they were able to win the jump ball. However, it was Gold who scored first, with a foul shot making it 1-0. As the first half went on, Purple clearly showed their strength in speed and defense, making several fast breaks and ending the first half with a leading score of 22-11.

Both sides started the second half with strong defenses, as the ball exchanged possession multiple times as players aggressively went after and stole it. Purple Side's defense in the end proved superior, only allowing Gold to score 10 more points in the second half, while they secured an additional 27, ending the game with a final three-pointer right as the buzzer

went off.

Throughout the game, cheerleaders and fans on the sidelines enthusiastically recited their chants and cheers in support of their teams.

"My favorite part of the game today was the wonderful, electrifying atmosphere," senior Jackie Cottrell said about the game. "Both sides were cheering for their teams, and the joy was evident. I am a proud Purple, and was very excited about the PV win!"

Freshman Sarah Engle, a Gold, still had fun at the game despite Gold's loss. "The most enjoyable part of today's game was the excitement and energy [around] the gym. Purple and Gold may be rivals, but at the end of the day, to see a Purple helping out a Gold and vice versa on the court, is the most satisfying sight. All of the girls are so focused within the game and their dedication to their side is mesmerizing."

THIS YEAR, PURPLE SIDE WON THE COLLEGE NIGHT WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL GAME FOR THE FIRST TIME 20 YEARS!



Photo courtesy of Jonathon Evans



## THE 2017 COLLEGE NIGHT DEDICATION GOES TO UM THEATER PROFESSOR Marcus Lane

2017 MR. AND MS. MONTEVALLO

DAVID POHLER & SPENCER ANGLIN





# Purple side show casts the wrong spell

By DANIELLE STALLWORTH



It was a wild time-traveling ride for Purple Side in the Big Apple.

Katie Compton | The Alabamian

In this year’s Purple Victory performance, “Showtime,” Purple Side casts a spell over Palmer auditorium that crash lands us (and a fascinating mix of characters) in the middle of New York City.

Our journey is led by the emcee, who introduces us to sisters and princesses Eliza and Penelope. Eliza is on the verge of becoming queen of the kingdom no matter how much she doesn’t want to. Across the world, we also meet Levi and his friend Huck, two Oklahoma cowboys.

Enter a disgruntled king, who is searching for a way to restore prosperity to his subjects and his land. But don’t be fooled—his intentions are anything but selfless. After having his servant capture a witch and seizing her wand, the king casts a spell that goes completely awry.

Suddenly, we are transported to present-day New York City where Eliza, Penelope, Levi, Huck

and the witch have been magically deposited. They are accompanied by a hodgepodge of characters including a mime, a ballerina, sailors, nuns, flapper girls, paperboys, greasers and two mischievous cats.

The disoriented ensemble stumbles around the city streets performing “A Story To Tell” as they express their curiosity for the new land they’ve entered, which they soon discover is New York. The witch explains that her wand was stolen and she cannot send them all home without it.

The stress of the situation starts taking a toll on the pack, which results in a fist fight between the cats and the Penelope. The group scatters when a cop arrives on the scene. Eliza narrowly avoids arrest with the help of Levi, and the couple flees.

Flash back to the king, who reveals his plan to get back on top by marrying Princess Eliza in his ego-stroking theme song, “I’ll

Conquer You.”

After escaping the police and trying hot dogs for the first time, Eliza and Levi confess to each other how unsatisfied they are with their lives back home. They sing to each other in “Fly Away With Me,” which ends in a kiss.

Nugget and Lola, the brother-sister-cat duo we met earlier, have made their way to a subway station where they perform a dance in hopes of getting some money. When they come up short, the king appears and pays the nefarious felines to capture Eliza for a “surprise wedding.” The trio performs “Here, Kitty, Kitty” as they unfold their wicked plan.

Later, the characters gather at Huie’s Bar to discuss their next plan of action. Cowboy Huck is determined to make it back to Oklahoma, with most of the others agreeing that they don’t belong in New York. Princess Penelope convinces them that they should

embrace the situation and try to have some fun. The cast breaks out into “Raise a Little Hell,” an upbeat, alcohol-fueled party anthem. Levi then attempts to stop the already intoxicated Eliza from having any more drinks, but she tells him to back off. The two argue before Eliza runs off to hurl.

Nugget and Lola show up at the bar where they immediately spot Penelope. Thinking that she is the princess the king has requested, they plan to kidnap her. The cats receive a phone call from the king, who gives them until midnight to find someone to officiate the wedding between him and Eliza. Luckily, there just so happens to be three nuns in the drunken ensemble.

After scolding Levi for letting Eliza run off into the city alone, Penelope goes to search for her. She comes across the cats and is distracted by their cuteness just long enough for them to capture

her.

Meanwhile, the group has had yet another run-in with the police after a noise complaint at Huie’s Bar. This time, the cop arrests the lot of them and sticks them in a cell at the New York Correctional Facility. Mother Superior, the main nun, is shortly released in order to officiate the king’s wedding.

Levi expresses his regret for letting Eliza go. She then shows up at the jail and the two reconcile with a kiss. Lead by Huck, who is now determined to rescue Penelope, the ensemble performs a riotous breakout song, “Jailhouse Rhythm,” and escapes the cell. Nugget and Lola return to the king with the captured nun and princess. Initially, he is angry that they did not bring Eliza, but goes through with the wedding anyway once he realizes it doesn’t matter which princess he marries.

Right as the ceremony starts, Huck barges in and offers Eliza in exchange for Penelope. The king accepts, and Eliza enters with a sack over her face. He removes it, revealing Levi wearing Eliza’s gown. Levi punches him in the face and the cast celebrates. But the king brandishes the witch’s wand and directs it at the group, determined to have his wedding. Enter the witch, who gets her wand back with ease as the characters seize the king and the cats.

The characters, who have grown to be friends, realize they can all go home now that the witch has her wand. Eliza announces that she is staying, as she has found her real home in New York City with Levi. In turn, Penelope will become queen of the kingdom and asks Huck to return there with her. The two share a kiss and the cast breaks into a bold and energetic finale, “We’re Heading Home,” letting the audience know that even though the show is over, their story has just begun.



In the end Eliza and Levi (right) chose to stay in New York, while Penelope and Huck (left) return to the kingdom.

Katie Compton | The Alabamian



The king recruits Lola and Nugget to help him kidnap Princess Eliza in “Here, Kitty, Kitty.”

Katie Compton | The Alabamian

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW COLLEGE NIGHT HISTORY?

By GEORDIE KENNEDY

“College Night! The very words send expectant, doubtful thrills through one!” A sentiment from the 1920 volume of the Montevallo yearbook, “Technala” still rings true today. The country’s oldest homecoming tradition has been a shining example of the uniqueness of this University. Throughout its 98-year history, the institution of College Night has evolved into the extravaganza in which this campus revels every year.

While knowledge of College Night’s founding and history is not uncommon, today’s students may be surprised by how different today’s celebration is from that of the early twentieth

century.

College Night’s birth year coincided with another great milestone for the early campus. The University, then called The Alabama Girls’ Technical institute, became a degree granting institution--officially a college. This newfound status led to opportunities of both business and pleasure alike.

“Now that our school is becoming a college, we have begun to take up college stunts,” states the 1919 edition of “Technala.” Stunts such as these were commonplace student-led entertainment on college campuses at the time.

One stunt in particular stood

out to both students and faculty all over campus - College Night. The first College Night was put on almost on a whim, a competition of entertainment among the classes. Held in the dining hall, students competed by performing poems, songs, theatrical scenes and other performances of the like. The first year’s victory was taken by the senior class.

While the first College Night celebration retained the same theatrical and competitive spirit felt today, the notion of sides was still a few years off. In 1921, in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the school’s founding, it was decided that College Night should be divided into two sides repre-

sented by the school colors instead of classes. In that same year, the first side leaders were elected. Purple Side was led by Ora Swann, while Gold Side was led by Lilian Sharpley.

Interestingly enough, despite the creation of the sides in 1921, the first mention of the side colors was in the 1920 “Technala.” On the second College Night, the junior class chose black and gold as a color scheme, while the sophomores decorated in purple and white. The seniors and freshmen chose red and green as their colors, respectively.

The first College Night was without a doubt adored by students and faculty alike. In its first

year, poems and songs were written in honor of College Night, and it was quickly recognized as a tradition. The 1919 “Technala” states, “All enjoyed this night so much that it will probably become a custom for all succeeding years.”

Certainly the writers of that year book did not know how right they were, and as we approach our one-hundredth year of College Night, we may find ourselves reflecting on the many years of College Night and every new tradition, large and small, that come of them. And as we look back, we may just come to think of who will be looking back on us.